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STATE OF INDIANA

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Governor Announces More Than \$20 Million To Enhance Public Safety Communications

Governor Mitch Daniels today announced more than \$20 million in grants will be used to enhance voice and data communication for local first responders in Indiana.

“The statewide goal is to give all public safety professionals the ability to have communication systems that work with each other, and to make them affordable and available for every community,” said Joe Wainscott, executive director of IDHS. “Funds will be used to purchase radios, add seven communication sites and provide training to use the system.”

The allocations of radios will be distributed according to an Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS)-led survey in 2007. Based on available funds, an equal percentage of each local request is being awarded for the purchase of eligible portable radios and accessories.

“First responders often times use different technologies that impede critical communication among firefighters, police, and other emergency personnel during a disaster,” said Jason Hutchens, planning division director at IDHS. “This technology investment will help our first responders effectively communicate and ultimately save lives.”

In total, the grant will fund:

- More than 5,200 (\$13 million) radios going to first responders
- \$2.9 million for communication infrastructure
- \$2.1 million dedicated to the advancement of integrated data sharing
- The first statewide interoperable communications conference on July 1st and 2nd
- The implementation of Communications Asset System Mapping (CASM), a tool for use by local, county and state public safety officials to develop interoperable communications plans.

The funds will advance Project Hoosier SAFE-T, an award-winning communication network that is making it possible for Indiana public safety professionals to communicate across the state. The project supports both analog and digital radios, providing 95% mobile radio coverage. The network allows local, state and federal agencies to be included in essential emergency communications.

Dave Smith, director of Indiana Public Safety Interoperable Communications, said “This is an opportunity for us to increase the number of radios in the state by approximately 20 percent.

Additionally, we're going to be able to add seven sites for portable coverage which is extremely valuable for those on the system."

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